

CLAIMS

1. A modular refrigeration and/or freezer appliance comprising at least one U-shaped module (16) which can be fitted to other modules to define, together with closure walls and at least one frontal door, a thermally insulated compartment, characterised in that said U-shaped module (16) is installable vertically, there being provided, in correspondence with said closure walls (40, 41), reversible connection means (6a, 6b, 30) between the U-shaped modules (16) or between said U-shaped module and other modular components (2) of the refrigeration appliance.
2. An appliance as claimed in claim 1, characterised in that said closure walls consist of horizontal flat panels (40, 41) provided with interface means (21, 121) which enable energy, cables, pipes, liquids and gases to pass.
3. An appliance as claimed in claim 1 or 2, characterised in that said connection means (6a, 6b, 30) comprise rectilinear profiled guides (6a) and corresponding counter-guides (6b)
4. An appliance as claimed in claim 3, characterised in that said guides (6a) are of inverted double L shape.
5. An appliance as claimed in claim 3, characterised in that said counter-guides (6b) are of T shape.
6. An appliance as claimed in claim 1, characterised by comprising a base module (2) provided with a lower part (3) from which there perpendicularly extend a pair of parallel lateral walls (4a, 4b), on the flat top of which said connection means (6a, 6b, 30) are present.
7. An appliance as claimed in claim 1, characterised in that one of

the closure walls (41) comprises a first U-shaped profile bar (7) connected to two spaced-apart panels (9), said profile bar and said panels defining a compartment to contain insulating material, hence forming a base module (2).

8. An appliance as claimed in claim 7, characterised in that said panels (9) are secured to said first profile bar (7) by guide slots (8) present in second guides (8).

9. An appliance as claimed in claim 1, characterised in that said U-shaped module (16) presents a pair of mutually facing spaced-apart profiled plate-like parts inserted head-on into seats (12) in two second U-shaped profile bars (10), this combination defining a compartment for containing insulating material (15).

10. An appliance as claimed in claim 1, characterised in that one of the closure walls defines for the refrigeration appliance a top (40) presenting a first U-shaped profile bar (9) into which a lower panel (9) and an upper panel (18) are inserted, said profile bar and said upper and lower panels defining a compartment (19) for containing insulating material, said upper panel presenting means (6a, 6b, 30) for its connection to said U-shaped profile bar (7).

11. An appliance as claimed in claim 7, characterised in that said base module (2) comprises at least one seat (22) to removably receive a hinge module (23), said seat and said hinge module (23) presenting mutual coupling means (22a, 23a).

12. An appliance as claimed in claim 11, characterised in that said mutual coupling means (22a, 23a) comprise dovetail-shaped guides.

13. An appliance as claimed in claim 11, characterised in that said

hinge module presents holes (25', 25'') to receive a lower hinge pin (24) for said door (27).

14. An appliance as claimed in claim 1, characterised in that said connection means (6a, 6b, 30) are represented by couplings (30) interposed between the parts to be connected.

15. An appliance as claimed in claim 1, characterised in that the modules (16, 2) and their constituent connection means (6a, 6b, 30) comprise discontinuities (101) to minimize the thermal bridges between the external environment and the thermally insulated compartment and/or between several thermally insulated compartments.

16. An appliance as claimed in claim 2, characterised in that the U-shaped module (16) is provided with an air duct (130) connected to the horizontal flat panels (40, 41).

17. An appliance as claimed in claim 16, characterised in that the air duct (130) presents at least one controlled aperture (142) for feeding refrigerated air.

18. An appliance as claimed in claim 17, characterised in that the air duct (130) further comprises an electronic circuit (136) connected to the control unit of the appliance, sensors linked to such electronic circuit (136) and lighting means (144).